

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 [redacted] rumors in the press about large trade agreements between the DDR and Communist China are completely without foundation. No agreements have been signed, and there have not even been any discussions on the question in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. [redacted] no agreement can be expected before late 1950 and [redacted] deliveries cannot take place before 1951.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: [redacted] an intensive effort is being made outside normal channels to obtain West German steel for Communist China. The Berliner Zeitung of 22 January 1950 reports on the efforts of Otto Volff and other steel producers in Düsseldorf, Cologne, and Essen to arrange contracts with China. [redacted] this article is based on facts and its publication caused some consternation among officials of the DDR. The Soviet economic experts plan to import steel from the Ruhr to the Russian Zone for transshipment to China via Rostock.

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